



VISION STATEMENT

We exist to help students learn how to live with one hand to the gutter* and one hand to the sky.

*The gutter is anywhere the Gospel is not, including: our students' homes, communities, schools, social circles, jobs, and extracurricular activities.

We believe that the gutter is any place or area in our students' lives where the Gospel is not present. These places may include in their homes or families, in classes and hallways of their schools, or within their social circles. The gutter is often a place where the hope of Jesus is not known and where something or someone other than God rules and reigns.

We also believe that students are called to live with one hand to the sky, or one hand toward God. This is twofold: students pursue God and trust in Him. We are not perfect, but we have been redeemed through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, we want to support our students in their lifelong pursuit of becoming more and more like Jesus as they read about Him, worship Him, and experience Him. We trust in what Jesus has done on our behalf and what He will continue to do in the lives of our students.

MISSION STATEMENT

To contextualize the mission of The Shift Church in the lives of our students in 6th-12th grade.

Engaging

- To intentionally engage with students, and their families, where they are in life by providing purposeful youth ministry.
- Engage with culture and society in order to provide a relevant and practical youth ministry that is grounded in Jesus, the Scriptures, and sound theology.
- Encourage and support students as they engage with believers and non-believers in their lives.

Equipping

- Equip our students to know: Jesus, the Gospel, and how to share the Gospel.
- Equip our students to defend their faith.
- To equip our students to live the life Jesus intended for them – life and life abundantly.
- Encourage and equip our families for discipleship with their students.

Experiencing

- To provide a community where students can experience Jesus.
- Build a community where students can experience living in fellowship with one another.
- To experience living out the Great Commission with other students.

CORE VALUES

Truth • John 8:31-32

Students are faced with countless questions and objections about truth. What is truth? Is it subjective, objective, both, or neither? We firmly believe that truth is objective and that our standard of truth is God. Through the Imago Dei, God's moral law has been imprinted on our hearts. Through the Bible, God's truth has been explicitly written out for us to read, learn, and live out. We use the Bible as the source of truth to teach students, help students worship God, and help them live out the life God intended them to live.

We believe that the Bible is relevant to our students in this day and age. It contains pertinent wisdom to help them navigate through the journey of life and is still applicable to current issues they face today. The message of the Bible has not changed, it is sufficient, and has been preserved through history. We protect it, treasure it, and freely share it.

Community • Acts 2:42

God, through his son Jesus, has adopted us into the family of God as sons and daughters. In the family of God, students have the opportunity to be fully known and fully loved by our Heavenly Father, by volunteer leaders, and by other students. We learn, as a community, to bear each other's burdens, to lay down our lives and serve one another, and do life together through each and every season. Just as Christ sought to put our needs above his own, we seek to put other's needs above our own.

Worship • Psalm 29:2

We emphasize to our students that they have free access to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. While we firmly believe in teaching our students about the different ways to respond or engage in corporate worship of our God, we equally believe in the importance of reinforcing the idea that worship is a lifestyle reflective of the Holy Spirit acting in our lives. Our students are faced with endless "idols" that attempt to be the object of their affections and we hope to encourage our students to direct their worship towards God. Jesus made a way for us to be in the presence of God and we exist to help students recognize the presence of God in their lives.

Missional Journey • 2 Corinthians 5:20

Today, students face a wide variety of different experiences before they turn eighteen and leave school. In some chapters of life, they celebrate academic achievements, experience a first of something, or they are recognized for a talent or gift. For some, they experience the death of a loved one, go through their heart break, or are rejected from peers or a school organization. Life is unpredictable and an ever-changing landscape.

Though students are in this specific season of life to learn, study, and mature, we believe that the same missional journey prescribed in the Great Commission still applies to them. As students learn more about Jesus and become more like Jesus, they are called to spread the message of Jesus to the world around them. That may look like speaking the resurrection power into another person's life, living out the Gospel in their schools and friend circles, or physically meeting the needs of those they encounter on a day-to-day basis. Just as the body of Christ is filled with a diversity of gifts, talents, and resources, our students are also equipped by the same God to have an impact on their families, neighborhoods, jobs, friends, schools, and the world.